2nd August 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" In the report of the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, who conducted an enquiry, it is said that year after year from July to October, due to the non-availability of clay, the workers used to go away for agricultural work. Therefore it is not considered to be an illegal closure."

Alleged irregular election of a member to the Malabar Pradesh Congress Committee.

* 1862 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Secretary of the Srikrishnapuram Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society has become the Secretary of the Mandal Congress Committee and got elected to the Malabar Pradesh Congress Committee; and

(*b*) if so, whether he has been exempted from the operation of the service rules?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Society has not adopted any service rules prohibiting its employees from taking part in politics. The question of exempting the Society from the service rules does not therefore arise."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has not the Registrar issued a general circular to all societies that there should be no one on the staff who is an accredited member of any political party and if it is so, why is it necessary that that particular society should adopt any bye-law at all? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no specific provision in the Co-operative Societies Act or the rules prohibiting the paid employees of co-operative societies from taking part in politics."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Is it not a fact that the employees of Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies are prohibited by rules from taking part in politics and is it because this particular society was given exemption from those rules that one of the employees had taken part in politics? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The General Body of this Society decided not to adopt this special bye-law. The question of starting supersession proceedings was therefore taken up by the Collector. But as the administrative control of the Society was being transferred to the Co-operative Department, supersession proceedings were dropped."